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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Lake Sakakawea Surplus Water Report, Environmental Assessment Update

**Bismarck, N.D.** - The comment period for the Garrison Dam/Lake Sakakawea Surplus Water Report and Environmental Assessment closed Feb. 1, 2011. Since the closing date, the Corps of Engineers has been reviewing and considering all the comments that have been received.

"We received considerable interest in this report, with more than 70 Tribes, Federal, State and local agencies as well as members of the public providing comment," said Larry Janis, project manager. "The consideration of all of the comments we received is an important obligation, and we want to ensure that we allot enough time to thoroughly review and appropriately address concerns before producing the final report."

The initial 30-day public review/comment period was extended by an additional 15 days to allow the public enough time to review the report and provide input.

"We understand the importance of the surplus water determination and we are committed to producing the final report in the shortest time-frame possible," Janis said. "We have been committed to transparency and receiving input from the public throughout this process, and our commitment to keeping the public informed and updated will continue."

The final report will answer questions regarding the availability and quantity of surplus water available for municipal and industrial use, the policy-determined cost and whether this action will have any significant environmental impacts.

**BACKGROUND:** The Corps released the draft Garrison Dam/Lake Sakakawea Surplus Water Report Dec. 16, 2010. The report proposes temporarily making up to 257,000 acre-feet of storage (100,000 acre-feet of yield) per year within the Garrison Dam / Lake Sakakawea Project, N.D. available for municipal and industrial water supply use. Temporarily making surplus water available allows the Corps to enter into surplus water agreements for up to 257,000 acre-feet of storage for surplus water to meet regional water needs until a future comprehensive strategy can be developed.

The draft EA, attached to the report, identifies baseline environmental conditions and analyzes potential impacts from the proposed use of surplus water. The draft Lake Sakakawea Surplus Water Report and EA are available for viewing at: [www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pd-p/review\\_plans.html](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pd-p/review_plans.html).

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